

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No.: 10/635,694 Att'y Docket: EH-10895 (03-357)
Filing Date: August 5, 2003 Conf. No.: 8373
Inventor(s): Robert L. Memmen et al. Group Art Unit: 3726
Assignee: United Technologies Corporation Examiner: Eric B. Compton
Title: TURBINE ELEMENT REPAIR

Correspondence Address:
Customer Number 34704

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The undersigned, James W. Neal, declares as follows:

1. I am a coinventor of the present application (published as US 2004/0172825). I am also a coinventor of US 2002/0076573.

2. I am Manufacturing Engineering Chief, Turbine Module Center, for Pratt and Whitney, a United Technologies Corporation company.

3. I have 32 years of experience in aerospace engineering with particular recent emphasis in manufacture and repair of turbine engine airfoils. I received a BS in Biology from California University (Pennsylvania) and have substantial additional coursework in Chemistry.

4. I have read and understand the amendment filed May 11, 2006 in the present application.

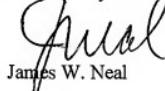
5. One of ordinary skill in the art (e.g., the manufacture and repair of gas turbine engine components) would not interpret the claimed "backing element" of amended claim 1 to include the "mask" of the '573 publication. It would be unreasonable to interpret the claimed backing element to read on that mask.

6. One of ordinary skill in the art would not find the claimed use of a "backing element" to be suggested by the '573 publication, alone or in combination with the other cited references.

7. The added elements of the amended claims and the elements of the new claims are inherently disclosed in the present application as filed and are not new matter.

8. The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal".

James W. Neal